

Paleontographical Society.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

PRESENTED TO AND ADOPTED BY A

GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT THE APARTMENTS OF
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE,

ON THE 26TH MAY, 1882.

PROFESSOR OWEN, C.B., F.R.S., PRESIDENT,
IN THE CHAIR.

THE Council in presenting their Thirty-fifth Annual Report can give a good account of their stewardship, and can testify to the prosperous condition of the Society, seeing that the subscriptions meet all necessary expenses, that no bills remain unpaid, and that no arrears of publications are existing.

The Volume for the present year now completed is worthy of the reputation of the Society. It displays 340 pages, is illustrated by 37 plates, describes 85 species of fossils, refers to the varied families of the Ferns, Echinodermata, Mollusca, and Ammonitidæ, and offers examples of fossils from the ancient rocks of the Silurian beds to those of the newer sediments of the Crag.

The divisions of this Volume are six in number, and are made up of the third part of the Eocene Flora, the tenth part of the Cretaceous Echinodermata, the fifth part of the fourth Volume of the Brachiopoda, the first part of the fifth Volume on the same subject, the third Supplement to the Crag Mollusca, and the fifth part of the Ammonites. Of these fasciculi four serve as concluding portions of individual Monographs,

which have been long in progress. Thus the Members of the Society are at last in possession of a complete Monograph on the Cretaceous Echinoidea, and have before them the Supplementary Volume treating of the Brachiopoda belonging to the strata from the Carboniferous upwards, and also can inspect the finished Memoir on the Eocene Ferns, and can study the final Supplement on the Crag Mollusca. The last contribution possesses a melancholy interest; it was left unfinished by that firm friend of the Society, the late Mr. Searles V. Wood, but the loving hands of his son have added the few paragraphs that were wanting.

These individual Monographs are of themselves memorials of the zeal, energy, and perseverance of their respective authors, whose only remuneration has been the consciousness that they have been assisting in the development of British Palæontology. One of these authors, the late Mr. Wood, had continued to labour for the Society for the space of 34 years, and had contributed 900 pages explanatory of the Crag Mollusca; a second, Dr. Davidson, has been engaged upon the Brachiopoda for 32 years, and has composed upwards of 1700 pages, and has drawn with his own hand, and presented to the Society, 220 plates; the third, Dr. Wright, has been working for 27 years, and has written more than 1000 pages.

To Dr. Davidson the Council are indebted on this occasion as at other times for a number of woodcuts in illustration of the printed text, and have to thank him for the gift of the seven very beautiful plates which accompany the first part of his Supplement on the Silurian Brachiopoda.

The Council would again draw attention to the Statement of finished Monographs, which occurs on pages 22 to 24 at the close of the "List of Members," and which will, through the directions given for the binding, enable the Members to separate and arrange a large group of Monographs. The Statement there printed shows that thirty-six Volumes of Memoirs are completed, and are in a condition to be bound as separate books.

Necessarily the operations of the Society carried on without

intermission for thirty-six years have produced much fruit though not without a considerable expenditure of money. At the present moment the thirty-five Annual Volumes contain rather more than 10,000 pages, 1400 plates, and 26,000 illustrations, and have described 5000 species of British Fossils, at a cost (all the authors giving their services gratuitously) of £23,000.

In conclusion the Council place before the Members the accompanying Balance-sheet of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1881-82, and recommend the election of Mr. J. Flower, Prof. McK. Hughes, Dr. Phené, and Mr. B. Woodd Smith as new Members of Council in the room of Sir A. Brady, deceased, Mr. E. W. Binney, deceased, Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys, and Mr. Saul.

The Council further recommend the election of Prof. OWEN, C.B., F.R.S., as *President*, Dr. H. WOODWARD as a new *Vice-President*, Mr. SEARLES WOOD as *Treasurer*, and the Rev. Prof. WILTSHIRE as *Secretary*, the other names remaining as before.

the PALEONTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY in Account with SEARLES V. WOOD, Treas., from March 31st, 1881, to March 31st, 1882.

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